

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 711
By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. John B. O'Dell, on
his selection as 2003-04 Tennessee
Superintendent of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing
the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John B. O'Dell is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished
himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity and has performed his
duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Dell has recently been selected 2003-04 Tennessee Superintendent
of the Year, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as an administrator, as it recognizes
the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works
assiduously to motivate the students of Sullivan to reach their full potential, both as scholars and
as citizens; and

WHEREAS, born on March 12, 1948, Dr. O'Dell has never failed to remember the
immense value of education or neglected to include its pursuit in his personal experience; he
earned a Bachelor of Arts from Milligan College in 1970, a Master's Degree in Secondary
Education from East Tennessee State University in 1974, a Specialist in Education in
Administration and Supervision from ETSU in 1977, and a Doctor of Education from the
University of Tennessee in 1980; and

WHEREAS, he began his career at Cedar Grove Elementary in Kingsport in 1970 and
served there as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal until 1977, when he became principal
of Sunrise Elementary in Bluff City; he also served with distinction as principal of Holston Middle

School from 1980 until 1983 and as Director of Personnel for Sullivan County Schools from 1983 until becoming the district's superintendent in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he has earned the respect and admiration of students, parents, and peers alike for the unsurpassed quality of his service; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional educator has long been recognized by his peers and students for his incomparable excellence; his many honors and awards include recognition by Milligan College as a 2003 Leader in Christian Service, the naming of The John O'Dell YiM Scholarship in Education at Milligan College in his honor, recognition as the Tennessee School Plant Management Association's 2003 Director of the Year, and nomination in 2002 as Tennessee Superintendent of the Year; and

WHEREAS, known throughout his community and his profession as a leader of the highest merit, Dr. O'Dell has provided astute guidance to numerous organizations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Dell truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, John B. O'Dell is devoted to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community; he is most grateful for the deep love and companionship he shares with his wife, Myra Mathes O'Dell, and he is the proud father of John, Jr. and Myra Alyne; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is an active member of Colonial Heights Christian Church, where he serves his Lord and the congregation as a deacon and organist; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Dell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach unfathomed heights, earning unparalleled honor within Sullivan County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Dr. John B. O'Dell for his unsurpassed excellence in education, congratulate him on being named 2003-04 Tennessee Superintendent of the Year,

commend his exceptional service to the youth of Sullivan County and Tennessee, and salute his professional expertise and remarkable diligence and devotion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.